



Quiz

Q1. What was the difference between classical prophecy and apocalyptic prophecy?

Q2. What is the theological message in chapter 2 that is observable from the structure of the chapter?

Q3. What could the clay symbolize other than some kingdoms of the divided fourth kingdom being weak?

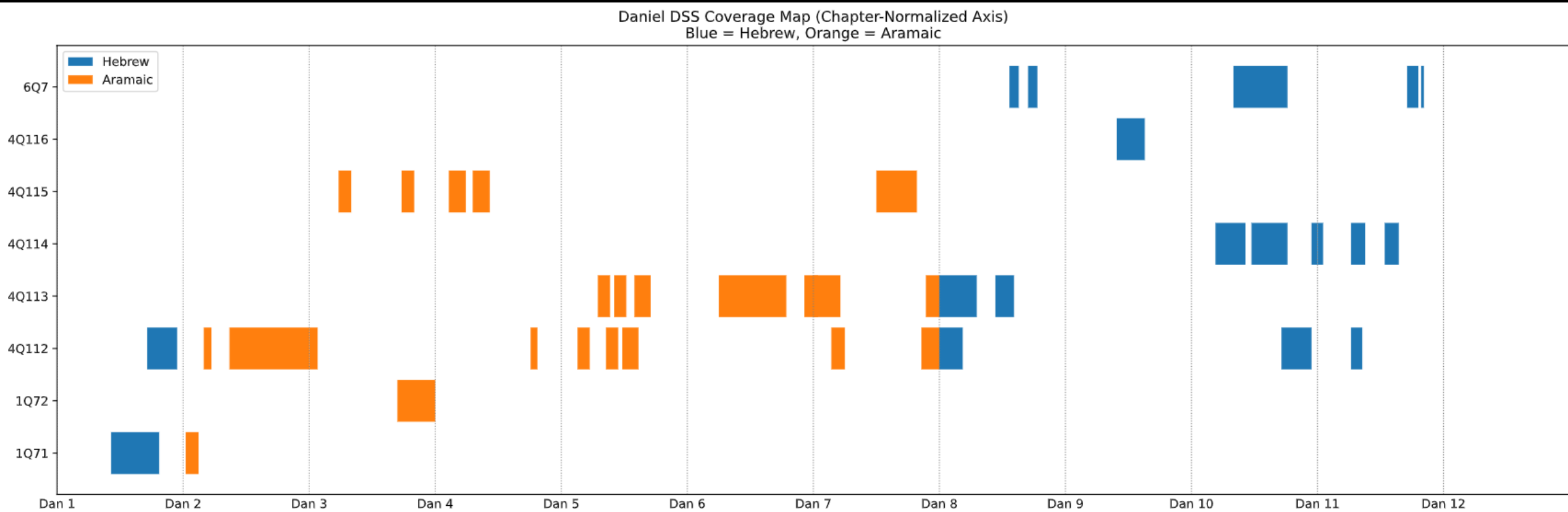
Daniel 7

Why study the book of Daniel and Revelation?

When the books of Daniel and Revelation are **better understood**, believers **will have an entirely different** religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that **heart and mind will be impressed with the character that all must develop** in order to realize the blessedness which is to be the reward of the pure in heart.

The Lord **will bless** all who will seek humbly and meekly to understand that which is revealed in the Revelation. This book contains so much that is large with immortality and full of glory that all who read and search it earnestly **receive the blessing** to those “that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.” Revelation 1:3. (TM 114)

Qumran coverage of Daniel



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The Structure – the Aramaic portion

A. Dan 2 – Future of Humanity.

B. Dan 3 – Faithfulness in Persecution.

C. Dan 4 – Repentance of Nebuchadnezzar.

C'. Dan 5 – Blasphemy of Belshazzar.

B'. Dan 6 – Faithfulness in Persecution.

A'. Dan 7 – Future of Kingdoms.

What does Daniel see?

Dan 7:1 **In the first year of Belshazzar** king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.

Dan 7:2 Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in **my vision by night**, and behold, **the four winds** of heaven were stirring up **the Great Sea**.

Dan 7:3 And **four great beasts** came up **from the sea**, each different from the other.

What symbolisms require explanation?

The wind, the sea, a beast

Jer 49:36 Against Elam **I will bring the four winds** From the four quarters of heaven, And scatter them toward all those winds; There shall be no nations where the outcasts of Elam will not go.

Jer 49:37 For I will cause Elam to be dismayed before their enemies And before those who seek their life. I will bring disaster upon them, My fierce anger,' says the Lord; 'And **I will send the sword after** them Until I have consumed them.

The wind = represent strife, destruction, and war

The wind, the sea, a beast

Isa 17:12 Woe to **the multitude of many people** Who make a noise like the roar of **the seas**, And to the rushing of nations That make a rushing like **the rushing of mighty waters!**

Rev 17:15 Then he said to me, “**The waters** which you saw, where the harlot sits, **are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.**”

The sea = many people

The wind, the sea, a beast

Dan 7:17 '**Those great beasts**, which are four, **are four kings** which arise out of the earth.

Dan 7:23 "Thus he said: '**The fourth beast** shall be **A fourth kingdom** on earth, ...

A beast = a kingdom or a political power



Evidence for a Clear Parallel

Dan 2:40 And **the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron**, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.

Dan 7:7 “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, **a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth**; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. ...

⇒The description of what it does matches.

What did he see?

Dan 7:4 The first was **like a lion, and had eagle's wings**. I watched till **its wings were plucked off**; and **it was lifted up** from the earth and **made to stand on two feet like a man**, and **a man's heart was given to it**.

⇒ Could be talking about Nebuchadnezzar's conversion experience?

⇒ Or... the latter characteristics of Babylon with Nabonidus and Belshazzar?

Lion from
ancient Babylon



What did he see?

Dan 7:5 “And suddenly another beast, a second, **like a bear**. It was **raised up on one side**, and had **three ribs in its mouth** between its teeth. And they said thus to it: ‘Arise, devour much flesh!’

⇒ Ferociousness of a bear... difficult to turn...

⇒ Media and Persia balance was never equal.

⇒ Babylon, Lydia, Egypt.

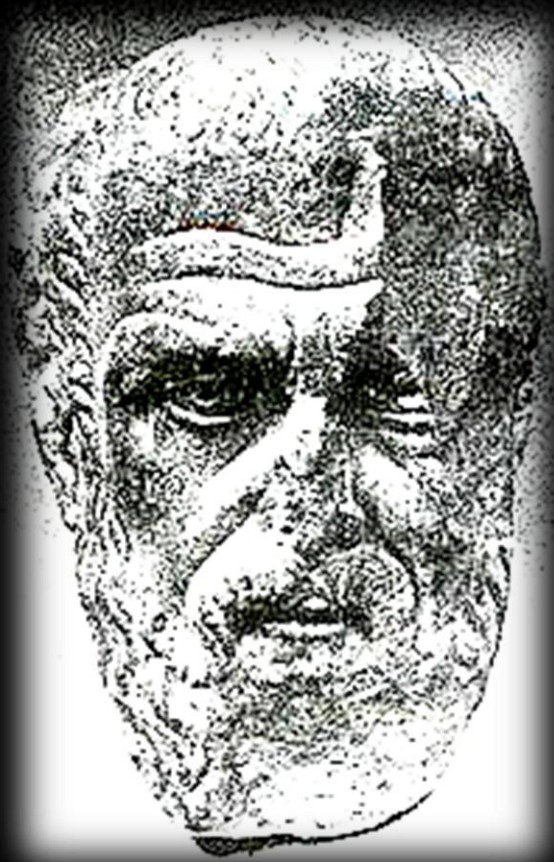
What did he see?

Dan 7:6 “After this I looked, and there was another, **like a leopard**, which had on its back **four wings of a bird**. The beast also had **four heads**, and **dominion was given to it**.

⇒ Leopard and wings represented extreme speed.

⇒ Four heads are telling us something about the dividedness.

⇒ Dominion was given to it – meaning it was not its own by nature.



Arrian of Nicomedia

“I am persuaded that there is no nation, city or people then in being where his name did not reach; for which reason, whatever origin he might boast of, or claim to himself, **there seems to me to have been some divine hand presiding over both his birth and his actions,** inasmuch as no mortal on earth either excelled or equaled him.”

What did he see?

Dan 7:7 “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, **dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong**. It had huge **iron teeth**; it was **devouring, breaking in pieces**, and **trampling the residue** with its feet. **It was different** from all the beasts that were before it, and it **had ten horns**.

⇒ How does dreadful, terrible, devouring, breaking in pieces fit the description of Rome?

⇒ How was it different from others before it?

⇒ This beast does not get superseded by another... (Dan 2:41).

⇒ What about the ten horns?

The horns

Dan 7:24 **The ten horns are ten kings** Who shall arise from this kingdom. ...

Dan 7:17 **‘Those great beasts**, which are four, are **four kings** which arise out of the earth.

Dan 7:23 “Thus he said: **‘The fourth beast** shall be **A fourth kingdom** on earth, ...

The horns = represent ten kingdoms or political powers that arise from this kingdom **which divides into pieces (Dan 2:41).**

The little horn

Dan 7:8 I was considering the horns, and there was **another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots.** And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

⇒ This little horn destroys three kingdoms before it arises.

Dn 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, ... and it had ten horns.

Dn 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn [were] eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

...

Dn 7:17 These great beasts, which are four, [are] four kings, [which] shall arise out of the earth.

Dn 7:18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

Dn 7:19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, ...

Dn 7:20 And of the ten horns that [were] in his head, and [of] the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even [of] that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look [was] more stout than his fellows.

Dn 7:21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

Dn 7:22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

Dn 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, ...

Dn 7:24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom [are] ten kings [that] shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

Dn 7:25 And he shall speak [great] words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Dn 7:26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy [it] unto the end.

Ten Characteristics of the Little Horn

1. Arises from Rome (vv. 7-8, 19-20).
2. Arises after the division (vv. 7-8, 20) - AD 476.
3. Three horns have been plucked out (vv. 8, 20, 24) - AD 538.
4. Diverse from the others (v. 24) - has eyes and a mouth (vv. 8, 20).
5. More stout (v. 20).
6. Great words against God (v. 25).
7. War with the saints and wears them out (vv. 21, 25).
8. 1,260 days of heyday (v. 25, c.f., Num 14:34, Eze 4:6, Dan 9:24-27).
9. Think to change times and laws (v. 25).
10. Exists until the time comes... (vv. 22, 26).

Horns = kingdoms (vv. 17, 23, 24)

Daniel 2 and 7 Comparison

Dan 2	Dan 7
Babylon	Babylon
Medo-Persia	Medo-Persia
Greece	Greece
Rome	Rome
(a) iron	(a) imperial
(b) iron+clay	(b) division
(c) -	(c) little horn
-	Judgment
The Rock becomes a great mountain	The everlasting Kingdom of the Most High

The Structure of Daniel 7

A. Vision of the kingdoms — vv. 2–12

a. Three beasts — vv. 2–6

b. Fourth beast + little horn — vv. 7–8

c. JUDGMENT — vv. 9–10

b'. Fourth beast judged — v. 11

a'. Three beasts lose dominion — v. 12

B. Son of Man receives the kingdom — vv. 13–14

C. Saints receive the kingdom — vv. 15–18

C'. Judgment gives kingdom to saints — vv. 19–22

B'. Judgment removes dominion and gives kingdom — vv. 23–27a

A'. Everlasting kingdom established — v. 27b



Discuss!

Would judgment be a scary thing for you? Why or why not?

What is the purpose of judgment for you personally? Do you long for judgment?

How does the idea of God's judgment affect the way you look at injustice and suffering?